

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group
for
Executive Committee for Highway Safety
Meeting Minutes; Mtg. #3
November 2, 2006**

Location:

NCDOT Large Conference Room, Room 280, 401 Oberlin Road @ 9:00 a.m.

Working Group Members in Attendance:

Timothy Akers	Cliff Braam	Greg Brew	Jeff Cox
Frank Hackney	Daniel Keel	Margaret Landon	Greg Loy
Mary Meletiou	Richard Mullinax	Jimmy Newkirk	Tom Norman
Sarah O'Brien	Pete Schubert	Carrie Simpson	Charlie Zegeer

Working Group Members Absent:

Loretta Barren	J. Blackman	James Dunlop	Vickie Embry	Brad Hibbs
Tyler Meyer				

Guests in Attendance:

Joe Geigle (for Brad Hibbs)

Scribe:

Jeff Cox

New Action Items:

- 1. Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT) will study an item on NCDOT's legislative agenda that would allow counties to construct transportation facilities, including sidewalks. DBPT will circulate a draft resolution to the working group for comments and/or endorsement.**
- 2. Subcommittee to propose strategy to Executive Committee to capture discussion to broaden Pedestrian Policy: Greg Brew (Chair), Vickie Embry, Daniel Keel, Richard Mullinax, Tom Norman, Charlie Zegeer.**
- 3. Subcommittee to develop resolution on school site selection: Greg Loy (Chair), Jeff Cox, Mary Meletiou, Pete Schubert, and Sarah Worth.**

Ongoing Subcommittees

- DMV Drivers Handbook subcommittee: Mary Meletiou (Chair), Tim Akers, Margaret Landon, Frank Hackney, and Pete Schubert.
- Law Enforcement Education subcommittee: Tim Akers (Chair), Mary Meletiou, Margaret Landon, Frank Hackney, and Pete Schubert.

Minutes:

- The meeting began at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Task I – Welcome

Tom opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Task II – Introductions

Tom introduced the newcomers to the group: Greg Brew, Margaret Landon, Richard Mullinax, and Sarah O'Brien.

Task III – Status of Bike/Ped Working Group Strategies --

Tom reported that the Executive Committee for Highway Safety adopted both strategies proposed by the Bike/Ped Working Group. The second strategy on Law Enforcement education was changed to include court officials.

Cliff gave an overview of the next steps of the procedure.

- Find a host agency to take responsibility for the implementation of the strategy. (Usually is the Working Group.)
- Need verbage for handbook. Cliff will take to DMV for inclusion in electronic version.
- DMV Drivers Handbook subcommittee: Mary Meletiou(Chair), Tim Akers, Margaret Landon, Frank Hackney, and Pete Schubert.
- Law Enforcement Education subcommittee: Tim Akers (Chair), Mary Meletiou, Margaret Landon, Frank Hackney, and Pete Schubert.

Task IV – Report on Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Workshops

Mary Meletiou gave report on the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Workshops. The workshops resulted in a prioritized list of policy changes which provides good guidance to the working group.

Task V – Revise and Prioritize Issues Lists

Tom Norman opened a discussion by proposing a shorter list of policy changes to be pursued. (See attachment.)

- **Give Counties the ability to build and maintain sidewalks.**

Greg Brew had concern for an unfunded mandate. Where would money come from to build sidewalks? Could it be paired to an NCDOT funding source?

Daniel Keel said this item is being addressed by an item that is already on the NCDOT's legislative agenda. This item would require schools to be treated as developers. Developers are required to address impacts to the adjacent roadway system through construction of additional travel lanes, turn lanes, installation of signals, etc. Since Counties, which administer schools, cannot, by law, build transportation facilities, the cost of impacts are left to NCDOT. The proposed legislation would allow counties to construct roads and make the school systems responsible for the transportation impacts of their new schools.

Pete Schubert suggested that if this doesn't pass, that we may need a subcommittee to address the larger issue.

Jimmy Newkirk brought up how the issue is of interest to other groups. There is a need to make these groups aware of the issue so that they can be supportive as the proposal moves up the chain. Tom Norman supported this proposal to get interagency support.

Daniel will get the information on the legislative agenda item.

Frank Hackney moved (seconded by Tim Akers) that the DBPT will produce a resolution and circulate to working group, who will endorse and ask consideration for language that includes accommodations for bicycle/pedestrian facilities. This motion was approved.

Action Item: Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT) will draft a resolution supporting an item on NCDOT's legislative agenda to allow counties to construct transportation facilities. DBPT will circulate draft resolution to the working group for comments/endorsement. The resolution will also ask the Executive Committee to consider language that includes accommodations for bicycle/pedestrian facilities

- **Dedicated funding source for pedestrian improvements/retrofits/maintenance, pedestrian intersection sidewalks**

Frank Hackney thought this issue should be addressed from an interagency perspective.

Jimmy Newkirk gave an overview of the Healthy Environment Collaborative Initiative (HECI), which is supported by secretaries of four agencies (DOT, DENR, DHHS, Commerce):

1. Create toolkit for development of model communities.
2. Develop policy agenda
 - Identify policies that are barriers
 - Promote policies that are favorable
3. Develop technical assistance team

The HECI may be the key to cross-funding of projects that promote active modes of transportation.

Cliff Braam reminded us that the Executive Committee has prioritized issues and set up working groups accordingly. The Working Group should not limit discussion for fear of funding, policy, or legislative issues. The Working Group's job is to look at the area of interest and put forward strategies that address the issues. The Executive Committee's job is to evaluate those strategies and make them happen.

Tom asked Cliff about how broadly worded the strategies can be. Cliff did say that the more focused the strategy is, the more successful it will be.

- **Change and Strengthen Sidewalk Policy (NCDOT Pedestrian Policy).**

Charlie Zegeer brought up the need to look at other traditional activities of NCDOT and how improvements in those areas will help. For example: signal timing changes, depressed medians, etc.

Greg Brew suggested that as we look at the policy, one effective strategy might include design guidelines for high crash corridors, traffic volumes, etc. The Working Group should make recommendations on how these guidelines should be incorporated into design criteria.

It was also suggested that the incremental expense of adding sidewalks to TIP projects should be rolled into the cost of the project.

Action Item: Subcommittee to propose strategy to EC to capture discussion to broaden Pedestrian Policy: Greg Brew (Chair), Vickie Embry, Daniel Keel, Richard Mullinax, Tom Norman, Charlie Zegeer.

- **Revisit School Site Selection Guidelines**

- This item goes with the item on improving connections between schools, parks, neighborhoods, and greenways.
- Tom Norman commented that we may need to assist decision-makers on the full range of impacts of school site selection.
- Pete Schubert suggested that any new guidelines should focus on facilities design issues that improve safety. Emphasis should be placed on crash statistics.
- Jimmy Newkirk felt it would be wise to involve DPI and DOT in resolution discussions.
- Tom also felt that consideration should be given to a resolution granting NCDOT's Safe Routes to Schools Program permission to address site selection criteria.

Action Item: Subcommittee to develop resolution on school site selection: Greg Loy (Chair), Jeff Cox, Mary Meletioui, Pete Schubert, and Sarah Worth.

Task VII – Next Meeting Date

Our next meeting will be at the Large Conference Room at 401 Oberlin Road at 9:00 on Thursday, January 4th.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee for Highway Safety is scheduled for January 16th.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Proposed Policy Changes: Combined October 2006

Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Workshop

Points	Policy
	Give counties the ability to build and maintain sidewalks (change to state law). (2)
	Dedicated funding source for pedestrian improvements/retrofits/maintenance, pedestrian intersection sidewalks (2)
	Change and strengthen sidewalk policy (NCDOT Pedestrian Policy)
	Increase DOT funding participation for sidewalk, multi-use and greenways and incidental pedestrian projects (2) - TIP Process
	Revisit school site selection guidelines - Department of Public Instruction & NCDOT (2)
	Educate district attorneys and judges and law enforcement on pedestrian enforcement - look how the yield-to-pedestrian statute can be enforced & how to educate the public on the law
	Guidance on linking land use planning with transportation planning.
	Guidance on when to put in pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, ped heads, crosswalks, etc.) con in project scoping.
	Modify design speed guidelines to parallel actual roadway uses
	Coordinate with future land use plans
	Improve connections between schools, parks and neighborhoods and greenways
	Develop enforcement strategies to promote pedestrian safety

